

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORTS FOR THE
SULLYS HILL WILDLIFE REFUGE
1936

55A338

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1153/1470P

One Young
"Cousin"
John Coulson
Miss Ruth
M.J.F.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY REFER TO

Sullys Hill Game Preserve,
Ft. Totten, N. Dak.,
Dec. 31, 1936.

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is a report for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1936 and also for the calander year ending the same date. Below is given the number of game animals on the Preserve at the end of the calander year:

	On Preserve end of		Increase by-	Left on Preserve
	Mar. 31/36.	3rd. quarter F.Y. '36. Loss	birth(Sold)	12/31, 1936.
Buffalo	15	0	7	20
Elk	23	0	8	31
Deer	15	3	4	16
	53	3	19	67

There are 18 Canada Geese left on the Preserve. There were 9 old geese last spring, 10 young ones were raised but one was lost during the summer. There are four mature beaver on the Preserve it is believed. One young beaver was noticed out near their house this fall which makes a total of 5 beaver. They are doing well it is believed. Some trees are being cut. They are making their home in the small lake now but it has been planned to move them up in the pasture next fall if we receive enough rain so there is water in the dams that have been constructed by the WPA men.

The buffalo are all doing very well except the old bull and an old cow that are not in as good shape as the rest of the buffalo. The buffalo are in the south part of the Preserve now and are eating about four tons of hay a week. We are ready to capture some elk in the corral as soon as colder weather and more snow has been received so the elk will come to the corral to feed on hay. The elk have eaten but a very little hay so far this winter. They are living on the dry grass and by brousing. No elk have been sold so far this winter. One elk will be given away to a state park as soon as elk are captured. Two ^{buffalo} ~~elk~~ have been disposed of for meat. The deer all seem to be doing well. They are feeding at a rack where good sweet clover and alfalfa hay has been put in the rack for them. Two of the deer that were lost died during the last part of last winter due to some unknown cause was the veterinarian's report. The third one was an old buck that was thin and it was believed that he had some disease. He was shot and buried during the summer.

During the past quarter some small dogs or coyotes have been digging under the fence some. We will keep the holes stopped and if they keep bothering, poison will be put out for them. During the past quarter, the tracks of racoons, weasels and a mink have been noticed. A few golden eagles roost in the large trees on the Preserve. These birds feed on jack rabbits mainly and rest at night in the timbered area.

In this immediate region where there are trees and fresh water, the insect eating birds seemed to do well during the summer and there were about the usual number here, but just away from the timber a mile or so, almost no birds were raised because there were but few insects for them to live on and no water. The same was true for the water fowl and upland game birds. That is, out on the prairie there were very few or no upland game birds where there was no fresh water. There were very few places where ducks could get fresh water during the past summer on the prairie. Many ducks were picked up and taken to where there was fresh water. It has been reported that all kinds of birds come to the stock watering troughs to get water. It was extra dry in this region during the last half of last summer. More geese were noticed flying over last spring than the spring before it is believed but very few were noticed here in the fall. There were about the same number of ducks noticed last spring as the spring before but during the fall flight but few ducks were noticed. There was almost no food for them to get and little fresh water where they could stop on.

Last spring there was much snow water that soaked into the ground (the ground froze only in places where the snow was blown away) and we received a fair amount of moisture in the form of rain during April, May and June. The grasses all made a fair growth up until about the middle of July when they commenced to dry up. The animals seemed to do better on the grass that was partly dried up than they have in the past on green grass. The hills are rather bare on the south sides in this region but the grasses are better off it is believed than they were during the summer of 1934. The pasture is not over grazed at the present time but the number of elk should be reduced especially if next summer is dry. Many of the shrubs have died that the elk feed on much.

As far as is known, there have been no hunting laws violated in any way on this Preserve. During the last half of the year, we have not received near the normal amount of moisture that is usually received here and it has been very dry. The grass in the pasture dried up about the middle of July, many of the leaves fell early and trees died on the ridges. Visitors kept coming to the Preserve and on August 10th. a number of men commenced to work in the big pasture on road work and other jobs. Much care was taken to prevent fires, no smoking was allowed except in the picnic grounds and the fire places were inspected each evening and when necessary, the fires were put out. We had no fires here but all was set for a real fire during the last part of the summer because it was so dry.

During the year no new work has been done under maintenance. Under the WPA much new work and other repair jobs have been done that ~~will~~ will be of lasting value to the Preserve. A crew of WPA men commenced to work on the Preserve on August 10, 1936 and have been working here up to the present time and will be back to do more work in January if the weather permits. The WPA men cleaned up much of the picnic grounds for fire protection; the brush was cut along the outside fence and the fence made higher where the snow drifts during the winter; A fence was built across a wet corner of the outside fence; four small dams were constructed in the pastures to help hold back some of the

snow water and the water that flows from some springs; five miles of road was graded in the big pasture after the rocks and stumps were removed; three miles of the new road has been graveled, much needed improvement work of making a room and a store room in the headquarters building and many other small jobs.

Off of the reclaimed lake bottom land that we have been farming to raise hay, about 70 tons of hay were put up during the summer. We have more hay stacked on the Preserve now than we can possibly feed to the animals during this winter. On this lake bottom land we raise some alfalfa, much sweet clover, some grain hay, some wild hay and broom grass.

The following number of visitors were to the Preserve during the Calender Year ending Dec. 31, 1936:

	Cars.	Visitors.
Jan. 1st. to end of Feb.	00	00
March	00	30
April	26	184
May	602	3547
June	715	3332
July	880	4065
August	812	3988
September	299	1518
October	54	707
November	15	257
December	9	38
	<hr/> 3,412	<hr/> 17,666

We have not been having such large crowds on holidays as during the past because there are a number of other places where people can go and fish and do almost as they please now. Also the roads have been much improved and people think nothing of driving fifty miles to eat their dinner at a new place. The new roads in the pasture will be a great attraction to the public because the roads pass over hills and thru the timbered area and there is a much better chance of seeing the buffalo or elk now than in the past when there was less trail than there are roads now. During the calender year ending Dec. 31, 1936 there were 2,891 cars and 14,244 visitors. This shows that people are traveling around more although times are rather hard yet.

It is believed that almost all of the activities on the Preserve and those connected with the Preserve have been reported. Many times it has been very trying to get the work done that has been done during the past year due mainly to the extra dry air, hot winds, soil in the air or dust and hot nights when one could not get a nights rest but as a whole all has gone along very well and much extra good work has been done by the WPA. But during all of the time the maintenance men and myself have done all we could to help the WPA men accomplish what has been done.

With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

Wesley D. Parker
U. S. Game Management Agent.

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Calendar Year ending Dec. 31, 1936:		Calendar Year ending Dec. 31, 1935:	
Visitors.	Cars.	Visitors.	Cars.
00	00	00	00
30	00	30	00
184	28	3547	302
3332	715	3332	715
4065	880	4065	880
3988	812	3988	812
1518	299	1518	299
707	54	707	54
257	15	257	15
38	9	38	9
<u>17,668</u>	<u>3,412</u>	<u>17,668</u>	<u>3,412</u>

We have not been having such large crowds on holidays as during the past because there are a number of other places where people can go and fish and do almost as they please now. Also the roads have been much improved and people think nothing of driving fifty miles to eat their dinner at a new place. The new roads in the pasture will be a great attraction to the public because the roads pass over hills and thru the timbered area and there is a much better chance of seeing the buffalo or elk now than in the past when there was less trail than there are roads now. During the calendar year ending Dec. 31, 1936 there were 2,901 cars and 14,244 visitors. This shows that people are traveling around more although times are rather hard yet.

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With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

U. S. Game Management Agent.



*Earnshaw
Crouch
Miss Ruth*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY REFER TO

Sullys Hill Game Preserve,
Ft. Totten, N. Dak.,
Sept. 30, 1936.

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is the report for the quarter ending September 30, 1936.

*Noted
Gry*

The animals as a whole are ~~add~~ doing very well. The buffalo are in better shape (with the exception of one old cow that is rather thin) than I have ever seen them before. The herd has been just recently increased by one new calf. This makes a total of 22 buffalo. The elk have been noticed at times during the month and as near as could be decided by what we could see of them in the trees, they were all in very fine shape. There are 31 elk. The 16 deer are all doing well it is believed. We do not see them very much or often. One old buck deer was shot and buried during the quarter as he was of no use and in poor shape. The 4 beaver and 19 Canada Geese are doing well. There may be more than four beaver. We do not see them very much but they are becoming very busy.

There are a few racoon, muskrats, mink and weasels on the Preserve. They are not bothered while here on the Preserve (except the weasels and mink if they get too close to where the geese are or do damage) but as soon as they go out side the fence they are hunted more or less all of the time by dogs if not by men. There are some tree squirrels on the Area. As far as is known, there are no other fur animals or predatory animals here now.

Birds

There seem to have ^{been} about as many of the insectivorous birds here this year as in the past. There was plenty of fresh water here and a fair supply of food in the timbered area for at least part of the birds. There have been about 150 mallards and 100 pin tails stopping on the small lake in the picnic grounds. Geese were reported on Devils Lake about the 17th. of September. All of the birds were on their southward migration. Water birds were very few in numbers as compared with past years when conditions were favorable.

Salamanders, frogs and a few grass snakes have increased (mainly the first two named) during the summer on this area where there has been water.

We have had about 2" of moisture in this region during the last part of the quarter. The moisture helped dampen things up on the surface only because the ground was so dry. Almost every place in this immediate region there is no moisture except down in the ground some feet. Many wells and springs have gone dry. The spring in the big pasture is still furnishing plenty of water for the animals. Dry weather dried up the grass and has killed many of the trees. But there seems to be plenty of grass for the animals that we now have on the area. It would be well to dispose of

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY REFER TO

Saliva Hill Game Preserve,
Pt. Totten, N. Dak.,
Sept. 30, 1936

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is the report for the quarter ending September 30, 1936.

The animals as a whole are ~~not~~ doing very well. The buffalo are in better shape (with the exception of one old cow that is rather thin) than I have ever seen them before. The herd has been recently increased by one new calf. This makes a total of 22 buffalo. The elk have been noticed at times during the month and as near as could be decided by what we could see of them in the trees, they were all in very fine shape. There are 31 elk. The 16 deer are all doing well it is believed. We do not see them very much or often. One old buck deer was shot and buried during the quarter as he was of no use and in poor shape. The 4 beaver and 19 Canada Geese are doing well. There may be more than four beaver. We do not see them very much but they are becoming very busy.

There are a few racoon, muskrats, mink and weasels on the preserve. They are not bothered while here on the preserve (except the weasels and mink if they get too close to where the geese are or the ducks) but as soon as they go out side the fence they are hunted more or less all of the time by dogs if not by men. There are some tree squirrels on the trees. As far as is known, there are no other fur animals or predatory animals here now.

There seem to have about as many of the insectivorous birds here this year as in the past. There was plenty of fresh water here and a fair supply of food in the timbered area for at least part of the birds. There have been about 150 mallards and 100 pin tails stopping on the small lake in the picnic grounds. Geese were reported on Devils Lake about the 15th of September. All of the birds were on their southern migration. Water birds were very few in numbers as compared with past years when conditions were favorable.

Salamanders, frogs and a few types snakes have increased (mainly the first two named) during the summer on this area where there has been water.

We have had about 2" of moisture in this region during the last part of the quarter. The moisture helped dampen things up on the surface only because the ground was so dry. Almost all the place in this immediate region there is no moisture except in the ground some feet. Many wells and springs have gone dry. The water in the pasture is still furnish- ing plenty of water for the animals. The water in the trees has been killed many of the trees. It seems to be plenty of grass for the animals that we now have on the preserve. It should be well to dispose of



the animals as was recommended some time ago so that the pasture will not be eaten too close during the winter and next spring.

The outside fence has been patrolled about once a week during the quarter. There have been no law violations that I know of in this region. For fire protection we are doing much road work on the Area, the old roads have been kept black, a large fire guard has been made around the winter supply of hay and much cleaning up has been done around the buildings in the picnic grounds.

Commencing on Aug. 10th. there have been from about 20 to 40 men doing WPA work on the Preserve. During about the last five weeks a 60 Catipillar tractor and blade have been working here on roads and trails. The WPA men have been doing road work, cutting brush where the snow drifts, built a fence across a wet corner of the pasture and ~~do~~ much cleaning up around the buildings.

About 40 tons of hay were stacked on the hay meadow, 40 tons of hay were hauled from the meadow and stacked in the corral and 32 acres of hay meadow land has been plowed so that hay can be raised on it next summer.

During the whole quarter, the weather has been very dry. During about the first half, it was extra hot, windy and dry. During the quarter we had the following number of visitors to the Preserve:

	cars	visitors.
July.	880	4 065
August.	812	3 988
Sept.	299	1 518
	<u>1,991</u>	<u>9,571</u>

It might in part be repeated again that the men on WPA work have done much good work on this Preserve. The work, especially the road work will be a lasting help and benefit. Roads are being built to take visitors over and for fire protection. The men seem to be satisfied and are working well.

With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

Wesley D. Parker

U. S. Game Management Agent.



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Commencing on Aug. 10th. there have been from about 20 to 40 men doing WPA work on the Preserve. During about the last five weeks a 60 Caterpillar tractor and blade have been working here on roads and trails. The WPA men have been doing road work, cutting brush where the snow drifts, building a fence across a wet corner of the pasture and so much cleaning up around the buildings.

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During the whole quarter, the weather has been very dry. During about the first half, it was extra hot, windy and dry. During the quarter we had the following number of visitors to the Preserve:

cars	visitors
July. 880	4 085
August. 818	3 988
Sept. 799	1 818
1,997	9,891

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With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

W. A. D. D. D.
U. S. Game Management Agent.



SULLYS HILL WILDLIFE REFUGE
QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR
APRIL, MAY, JUNE, 1936
combined with the Fiscal Year 1936
Report

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY REFER TO

Sullys Hill Game Preserve,
Ft. Totten, N. Dakota,
March 31, 1936.

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

January 1 -

This is the report for the quarter ending March 31, 1936:

In spite of the extra cold weather during the months of January and February, the animals have done well on this Preserve. At the end of the quarter there are 15 buffalo, 23 elk, 15 white tail deer, four beaver and 9 Canada Geese. One young white tail deer died during the quarter. It was believed that her back might have been injured by one of the other deer striking her and then she caught pneumonia during the cold weather as she did not move around so much. The carcass was examined closely and a large pus sack ^{was noticed} in the right lung. The elk were counted a number of times and it was decided that there were 23 of these animals on the Preserve instead of 20 as was on the last quarterly report.

We had plenty of hay on the Preserve last fall. The animals have all received all of the hay that they needed. The deer had plenty of very fine alfalfa and sweet clover in a rack to pick on when ever they wanted it. Hay was scattered out at three separate places ^{for the elk and buffalo}, each over a distance of about a quarter of a mile. We had three weeks of extra cold weather during January and all of February. The elk and buffalo cleaned up at the rate of about 18 tons of hay per month during the said cold weather. The beaver house was opened twice during the last three month and about five bushels of mixed vegetables were put inside each time for their use.

There are a number of raccoons, a very few mink and weasels on the Preserve. It is believed that there are a few muskrats on the small lake. A few years ago there were many muskrats on the said small lake but during the dry weather when the small lake was dry they left or weasels and minks killed them off. Coyotes have not been on the area for some years.

Tallow has been kept out for wood peckers, nuthatches and chickadees. These birds are fairly ~~and~~ plentiful in the timbered area. It is believed that about a third of them died off during the extra cold weather. A few were noticed dead after it warmed up some. Many pheasants and a few grouse have been feeding (and grain has been put out for them) on the Preserve. It has been reported that geese and ducks were noticed in this region during the last part of March.

As the snow disappears on the south hill sides, it can be noticed that there is much grass for the animals to get now. It is believed that there are about the right number of animals on this area for years when there is plenty of moisture. On dry years the number should be about two thirds as large.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY REFER TO

Saliva Hill Game Preserve,
Ft. Totten, N. Dakota,
March 31, 1936

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is the report for the quarter ending March 31, 1936:

In spite of the extra cold weather during the months of January and February, the animals have done well on this Preserve. At the end of the quarter there are 15 buffalo, 23 elk, 15 white tail deer, 100 prairie dogs and 2 Canada Geese. One young white tail deer died during the quarter. It was believed that her back might have been injured by one of the other deer striking her and then she caught pneumonia during the cold weather as she did not move around so much. The carcass was examined closely and a large pus sack in the right lung. The elk were counted a number of times and it was decided that there were 25 of these animals on the Preserve instead of 30 as was on the last quarterly report.

We had plenty of hay on the Preserve last fall. The animals have all received all of the hay that they needed. The deer had plenty of very fine alfalfa and sweet clover in a rack to pick on when ever they wanted it. Hay was scattered out at three separate places, each over a distance of about a quarter of a mile. We had three weeks of extra cold weather during January and all of February. The elk and buffalo cleaned up at the rate of about 18 tons of hay per month during the said cold weather. The beaver house was opened twice during the last three months and about five bushels of mixed vegetables were put inside each time for their use.

There are a number of racoons, a very few mink and weasels on the Preserve. It is believed that there are a few muskrats on the small lake. A few years ago there were many muskrats on the said small lake but during the dry weather when the small lake was dry they left or weasels and minks killed them off. Coyotes have not been on the area for some years.

Tallow has been kept out for wood peckers, nuthatches and chickadees. These birds are fairly plentiful in the timbered area. It is believed that about a third of them died off during the extra cold weather. A few were noticed dead after it warmed up some. Many pheasants and a few grouse have been feeding (and grain has been put out for them) on the Preserve. It has been reported that geese and ducks were noticed in this region during the last part of March. As the snow disappears on the Saliva Hill area, it can be noticed that there is much grass for the animals to eat now. It is believed that there are about the right number of animals on this area for years when there is plenty of moisture. As the weather should be about two thirds as large.



From January 15th. to February 27th. inclusive, the temperature averaged many degrees below zero. On the morning of February 15th. the thermometer registered 46 degrees below zero. Besides the extremely low temperature, we received much snow and strong winds during the period. During most of the days the sun shone and it warmed up much about noon. The sun shine was a great help. Due to the extra deep snow covering the ground, it was necessary to put out stored food for all of the animals and birds that survived the cold weather and deep snow. It is believed that much of the bird life was lost during the trying period. Feed was put out every where for game birds that there were birds and the feed could be put. During most of the cold period, all of the roads and highways were blocked to all travel except horses and sleighs.

At the Sullys Hill Preserve it kept me very busy keeping enough hay out for the animals, the fence patrolled, snow shoveled away from the fence where it drifted and doing the other necessary work. It was necessary to have two men to work at times to help remove snow from the along the fence, off and from around the buildings and to help make the outside fence higher for a distance of about a quarter of a mile where the snow had drifted. The drifts were here and there. Posts were extended above the fence about three feet higher than the fence and wired on to each steel post. Barbed wire was then securely fastened to the posts. In this way the fence was made from two to three feet higher according to how deep the packed snow drifts were.

Now at the end of March, about one-half of the snow is still on the ground or there is still about a foot of packed snow on the ground. Of course much of the exposed land is free of snow. It looks as if it would be at least a week before the farmers get much done in the fields. When once plants of the cultivated crops as well as all other plants commence to grow in this region, they grow very rapidly due to the long hours of sun light.

With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

Wesley D. Parker.

U. S. Game Management Agent.



From January 15th. to February 27th. inclusive, the temperature averaged many degrees below zero. On the morning of February 15th. the thermometer registered 46 degrees below zero. Besides the extremely low temperature, we received much snow and strong winds during the period. During most of the days the sun shone and it warmed up much about noon. The sun shone was a great help. Due to the extra deep snow covering the ground, it was necessary to put out stored food for all of the animals and birds that survived the cold weather and deep snow. It is believed that much of the bird life was lost during the trying period. Food was put out every where for game birds that there were birds and the feed could be put. During most of the cold period, all of the roads and highways were blocked to all travel except horses and sleighs.

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With the kindest of regards, I am;

Very truly yours,

U. S. Game Management Agent.

